

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

OPEN MINUTES

**Fisheries Department
Thursday, 1st December 2016
9.00am**

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the next meeting of this committee

Present:	The Honourable Ian Hansen – Chairperson	IH
	The Honourable Gavin Short	GS
	Director of Natural Resources – John Barton	DNR
	The Chief Executive – Barry Rowlands	CE
	Dr. Alexander Arkhipkin	SA
	Capt. Chris Locke	CL
	Mr. Alex Reid	AR
	Mr. Drew Irvine	DI
	Mr. Hamish Wylie	HW
	Mr. Tim Cotter	TC
	Mr. Joost Pompert	JP
	Miss. Amanda Kuepfer	AK

Minute Taker: Miss Denise Herrera

Public: 3

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|------------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | ACTION |
| 1.1 | The Honourable Phyl Rendell | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 2.1 | Industry representatives declared an interest for every item on the agenda. | |
| 3 | Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2016 | |
| 3.1 | Minutes confirmed. | |
| 4 | Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 | |

4.1 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 Item 5.1 –

CL states that contract is in final stages of completion and work programme indicates work is due to commence on 9th January.

4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 Item 5.2 –

Maritime and Harbours Bill still being progressed between Attorney Generals department and Natural Resources and as soon as it is made available will be discussed as was agreed.

4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 Item 6.2 –

DI discussed that all industry members had a direct interest in many matters on the agenda. DNR states that as per 6.6 these views may be captured by the new document which has not been received yet. The AG is aware of the issue for this committee and other committees.

5 Fishery Update

5.1 DNR stated that fishing year is coming to an end. There is a small level of fishing activity, it was a dismal Illex season, average calamari season, big hake and a dearth of rockcod as shown by graphs.

5.2 AR asked about further updates to FIPASS maintenance. CL stated that Phase 2 FIPASS maintenance will start on 9th of January 2017, and that a final contract has been agreed with SATCO and is awaiting final approval certificates from Attorney General. A SFC paper has been submitted to bring money in from the 2017/18 budget for the NW Barge review. Tender for the NW Barge work are about to be awarded. Although this was intended to be completed before Phase 2 work, it can also be completed during Phase 2 work. CL hopes for minimal disruption to operations at FIPASS with continued berthing availability. HW expressed concerns about ongoing work during times of transshipment. CL said this work needs to be carried out and he will work through the FIPASS user group and with FIPASS having weekly meetings to manage all operations. CL stated it is intended to accommodate transshipment operations.

5.3 CL mentioned the Maritime and Harbours Bill is being progressed at Attorney Generals department and as soon as it is made available can be discussed. DI asks about whether there is user group or industry representation on the project team for the Maritime and Harbours Bill. CL responds that there is an industry and reference group including three mariners. CL stated that there is a lack of specialist knowledge in this field but the reference group can help work out implementation issues.

- 5.4 DNR reported that a draft version of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been received and needs reviewing. Exercise Skyfall allowed for practice deployment of oil spill containment booms. BR commented that the MoD are bringing down specialists in oil spill management training and CBFSAI has asked whether the private or public sector would like to attend this. CL noted that this is beneficial to FIFD. BR emphasised that it could be an opportunity for wider training in the public and private sectors.
- 5.5 Illex applications have been processed and companies have to 7th December to respond on licence offers.
- 5.6 The annual Seabird Mortality in Trawl Fisheries (2015-2016) report has been compiled and is being presented as item 8.
- 5.7 A report on interactions, including mortalities of seals in fishery operations is being presented as item 9.
- 5.8 DNR stated that after 18 years Bernie Eccles left the role as Licensing Officer and Sheena Ross has taken on this role. TC asks about the Deputy Marine Officer post. CL is confident this will be advertised in the next two weeks and that the suitable candidate will have STCW95-22 qualification.

6. Draft Business Plan 2017-2019

- 6.1 DNR states that the Honourable Phyl Rendell requested the Business Plan to be brought forward. A draft of the Business Plan has been presented in two parts, one for Administration, Fisheries Protection & Marine Operations and the other for the scientific section. DNR states he aims to capture more of the day to day work in the plan.

- 6.2 IH invites for comments on the draft Business Plan. **DNR**
 DI comments that under bullet point 1 on page 5, the industry would like to move away from an annual basis review of fee levels and assess these over a longer term and ideally with reduced fees..
 HW commented that a clear statement of the CMT vision would help address low score of staff's awareness of CMT vision. HW asks for an inclusion of addressing low scores on staff survey as well as date for next staff survey. HW asks whether ITQ registry system is an issue or just mentioned for general house-keeping. DNR responds this is for general housekeeping purposes and needs to be 'polished'. HW comments on the lack of inclusion for a long-term vision of the port and the need for including longterm issues so that staff are aware of these. DNR indicated that this might currently reside in the Central Services plan as they are taking the lead on this.
 DI inquires about the meaning of the final bullet point on page 13 regarding the reliance on the MCA. CL stated he works closely

together with the MCA through the REG. CL states that at the moment this is not about localising provided services but a possibility for the future.

DI comments on the date of the middle item of the first table on page 14 and inquires whether this should in fact be “June 2017”. CL and DNR comment that this is an ongoing task.

DI inquires about the timescale for the Adoption of the UK Marine Port Safety Code on page 15. CL responds that there is not a fixed date and this will be brought in alongside the Maritime and Harbour Bill. CL plans to consult industry on this matter.

- 6.3** The Scientific Programme for 2015-2017 is part of the Business Plan. HW inquires whether there is a more up to date version. SA confirms that this plan is up to December 2017. DI comments nothing is listed past October 2016 on the final page. SA comments these are research cruises. HW comments that the Scientific Programme is not linked to the budget. DNR comments that this programme was done based on calendar year but does link to finances.

7 Review of Conversion factors

- 7.1** JP and AK join the meeting for agenda items 7, 8 and 9.

- 7.2** JP introduces the importance of Conversion Factors and how these are calculated by Scientific Observers. This is detailed in the documents provided for both the trawl and longline fishery. TC states that the CFL Hunter will have the same crew and same processing arrangements and thanks JP. HW commented that his was a useful piece of work.

8 Assessment of Seabird Bycatch – Trawl 2015/16

- 8.1** AK informs the committee of the Assessment of Seabird Bycatch in Falkland Islands trawl fisheries 2015/16. There were 883 mortalities of high risk species in the trawl fleet, the majority were black browed albatross. Higher rates of mortalities observed in the Loligo fleet this year. AK states that the current estimates are under-estimates as there is little understanding of the level of undetected mortalities and unknown fates. Discard management is the most logical approach to seabird bycatch mitigation, and continues to be a priority. AK informs that weather conditions do also play a role, however more data needs to be collected. DI comments that with regard to BSL refinements industry needs to know in advance so this can be arranged when vessels are overseas. AK advises that there are no immediate proposals to modify BSLs and only small adjustments might be necessary. This needs testing on at least another vessel. SA comments that an increase in hake parasites has been detected by department scientists and birds are an important host, with higher numbers of seabirds ingesting hake discards resulting in higher numbers of parasites returning to hakes through

the food chain. In part this may be an impact of the increasing albatross population. SA advises that discard management is a potential solution. IH asks about the possibility of a public presentation mentioned in the document as this is of general interest to the public. **AK**

9. Seal Interactions

9.1 JP informs the committee on the findings of the report on pinniped (seal) interactions with the fishing fleet. JP states that there has been a higher number of reports of seal interactions with the fishing fleet in the last 18 months. JP informs that discards as well as “dirty” nets being shot are a cause of mortality. JP says that there are some recommendations to improve the situation. More work needs to be done by FIFD observers collecting this data. Develop guidelines for fishing vessels including release of captured animals and cleaning of nets. SA confirms there is a higher prevalence of interactions during the second season due to the availability of prey items in the fishery. DI asks whether there will be measures introduced as of 2017, such as net cleaning. DNR advises that a clean net is beneficial from multiple aspects, so this should be introduced. JP advises that no discarding during shooting and hauling is a solution as well. DI inquires whether discarding is allowed during shooting and hauling. It currently is as long as BSL are deployed. DNR responds it would be better if during this time discarding ceased.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The date of the next meeting is **1 March 2017 at 0900**.

11. Exclusion of Press & Public

The Chairman moved as follows:

“I move that the press and public be now excluded on the ground that the next items of business to be considered are likely to disclose exempt information under Paragraphs 4 & 9 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

12. Confirmation of the Exempt Minutes held on the 15th September 2016

12.1 The minutes were confirmed.

13. **Matters Arising from the Exempt Minutes held on the 15th September 2016**

13.1 **Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 Item 13.2 –**

DNR stated that the cruise was potentially still happening but possibly not in the 30th Anniversary year but is still being discussed.

13.2 **Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 Item 13.3 –**

DNR informs that the FIFCA Fisheries forum on the 10th of November went well.

13.3 **Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 15th September 2016 Item 14.1 –**

Issues relating to Brexit were discussed.

Minutes confirmed this day of 2016.

Chairman

Secretary